

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Saalfeld

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

1 June 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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[Redacted]

1. From 1 to 12 May 1953, the Prinz-Louis-Ferdinand Kaserne in Saalfeld was occupied by an estimated 300 to 400 troops who wore red-bordered black or black-bordered black epaulets. Three units of 120 to 150 men each, lined up for a roll call, were seen on several days. [Redacted] 3 to 5 groups, each of 12 to 15 soldiers, wearing red-bordered black epaulets, engaged in practices in the training area on the Saalfeld-Unterwirschbach road. The soldiers, who were armed with submachine guns and carbines took cover in a ditch, while 1 officer and 2 other soldiers each were on two towers mounting machine guns on tripods. The machine gunners and the soldiers in the ditch alternately opened fire and ceased firing, following transmitted over a field telephone. Motor vehicles [Redacted] and driving school trucks [Redacted] were seen en route to the installation.<sup>1</sup> [Redacted] rocket launchers were entrained in Saalfeld on 23 April.<sup>2</sup>

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1. [Redacted] Comment. The black-bordered black epaulets observed are a rather vague indication for the 45th Gds Engr Bn of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, which is believed stationed there.

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2. [Redacted] Comment. It can be assumed that elements of the 316th RL Regt (US) of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, which was repeatedly confirmed in Saalfeld, have been transferred to Ohrdruf.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET